

April 23, 1985

LB 250, 250A, 280A, 346, 347, 347A, 383
383A, 421, 421A, 430, 488, 493, 503
585, 628

health program. What is the rationale? What is the rationale? I sat down with Senator Nelson and Senator Lundy and Senator Sieck and Ron Jensen from the Department of Public Institutions and a couple of folk from alcoholism councils and I learned something. What I learned is that we have got the alcoholism program and the mental health program and a million dollars of unspent federal money over here that couldn't be used. It could not be used for the alcoholism program and the mental health program this last year because the Department of Public Institutions did not think that the programs at that time were so fully developed that the money could be used. So I said, if that is the case, how can I justify putting in an additional \$1.6 million in those programs out of general funds this year if, in fact, I've got a million dollars back here in the unused federal funds? So the understanding...it wasn't really an understanding, but before I walked away, I said, wait a minute, make certain those programs use that federal money first and then put some additional general fund money in and that is what this amendment would do. The amendment puts in \$300,000 of general funds this year, \$500,000 federal funds for the alcoholism program, \$300,000 mental health funds...I'm sorry, \$300,000 general funds, and \$500,000 federal funds for the mental health program. It takes out the corrections money. The corrections money is an interesting case. The Department of Corrections this year has gone to lump sum budgeting. It is the first time ever, lump sum budgeting. So you can put \$300,000 that the bill calls for into the Department of Corrections' budget, but there is no way of ensuring ourselves that money is going to go for alcohol treatment. None. So you might as well take the money out. If they want to come in later on and undo the lump sum budgeting, they can do that. But they asked for lump sum budgeting this year. So that is the rationale. With that, I would move the bill to be returned to Select File for the specific amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LB 250, LB 250A, LB 346, LB 347, LB 347A, LB 383, LB 383A, LB 421, LB 421A, LB 430, LB 493, LB 488, LB 503, LB 585 and LB 628. Senator Higgins and then Senator Haberman. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to ask Senator Johnson a couple of questions.